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Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 1 February 2007

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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1-7 and 9-14, and add new claims 15-21. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-21 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objects to claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9-14 on various grounds.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend all of the claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9-14. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the objections to claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9-14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9-14 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph on various grounds.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-7 and 9-14. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the rejections of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and

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claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, over Rouquier et al. U.S. Patent 6,656,607 ("Rouquier").

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 1-7 and 9-14 are patentable over Rouquier for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, the composition of claim 1 includes pigment particles.

Applicants respectfully submit that Rouquier does not disclose a composition including the pigment particles. Rouquier is directed toward method for producing an anticorrosive coating or treatment for metal parts such as steel and cast iron. Rouquier has no teaching, disclosure of suggestion of any composition that would be applied to a surface for marking or decorating the surface. It follows that Rouquier has no teaching, disclosure of suggestion of any composition that would need to include any pigment particles. In particular, Rouquier does not disclose any pigment particles in its anticorrosive treatment material.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Rouquier.

Claims 2-4

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, and for the following additional reasons. In claim 4, the pigment particles comprise an organic pigment. Applicants respectfully submit that Rouquier does not disclose any organic pigment in its anticorrosive treatment material.

Claim 5

Among other things, the screen-printed layer of claim 5 includes pigment particles. As explained above with respect to claim 1, Rouquier does not disclose any pigment particles in its anticorrosive treatment material.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is patentable over Rouquier.

Claims 6-7

Claims 6-7 depend from claim 5 and are deemed patentable for at least the

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reasons set forth above with respect to claim 5, and for the following additional reasons. In claim 7, the layer is a substantially dense layer. The Office Action makes no mention of this feature, and does not cite anything in Rouquier even supposedly disclosing such a feature.

Claims 9-14

Claims 9-14 all now depend from new claim 15 and are deemed patentable over Rouquier for at least the reasons set forth below with respect to claim 15.

CLAIMS 15-21

By this Amendment Applicants add new claims 15-21.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-21 are all patentable over Rouquier for at least the following reasons.

Claim 15

Claim 15, among other things, the substrate of claim 15 includes a screen-printed marking formed thereon, where the screen-printed marking comprises a composition including at least one hybrid sol-gel precursor and a cellulose derivative.

Applicants respectfully submit that Rouquier does not disclose or suggest applying any marking to a substrate. Indeed, and to the contrary, Rouquier is directed toward method for producing an anticorrosive coating or treatment for metal parts such as steel and cast iron. Such coating or treatment would be ineffective if it failed to cover the metal surface of the part, and so there is no teaching, disclosure, or suggestion in Rouquier of using such a material to apply a mark to a substrate.

Claims 16-17

Claims 16-17 depend from claim 15 and are deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 15, and for the following additional reasons. In claim 16, the screen-printed marking comprises a decorative marking. In claim 17, the composition includes pigment particles. Applicants respectfully submit that none of these features is disclosed or suggested by Rouquier

Claims 18-20

Claims 18-20 depend from claim 1 and are deemed patentable for at least the

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reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, and for the following additional reasons. In claim 18, the pigment particles comprise an oxidized metal. In claim 19, the pigment particles comprise TiO_2 . In claim 20, the pigment particles comprise ZnFe_2O_4 . Applicants respectfully submit that none of these features is disclosed or suggested by Rouquier.

Claim 21

Claim 21 depends from claim 5 and is deemed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 5, and for the following additional reasons. In claim 21, the pigment particles comprise an organic pigment. Applicants respectfully submit that Rouquier does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-7 and 9-21, and pass the application to issue.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this reply to charge payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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